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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 25 February 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement by His Excellency the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of my country (see annex) concerning the savage massacre perpetrated by Israeli extremist settlers against defenceless Palestinian citizens while they were praying in the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron in the occupied Palestinian territories at dawn today, 25 February 1994, as a result of which dozens were killed and hundreds wounded.

I request you to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34 and 35, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fuad A. BATAINEH
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan concerning the criminal occurrence in the Ibrahimi Mosque

I wish to convey the vehement condemnation of the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for the savage massacre that was perpetrated at dawn today against innocent and defenceless Palestinian citizens in the Ibrahimi Mosque, one of the most sacred places of worship for the Islamic community.

This abominable crime, which was perpetrated against a congregation at prayer in the middle of the blessed month Ramadan, has devastated us and every Arab and Muslim, just as it has devastated the world. It must not be allowed to pass as a transient occurrence. What is required is for the international community to treat it as one of the phenomena of the arming of extremist settlers; Jordan has long warned of the dire consequences of this for the peace process. Accordingly, Israel must bear the responsibility for these brutal actions, since it provides the settlers with weapons, freedom of movement and access to the Islamic Holy Places. Israel must undertake an immediate investigation into this criminal occurrence and put a halt to the terrorist acts carried out by settlers. The criminals must be punished and disarmed so as to prevent a recurrence of this massacre.

The international community and international bodies are called upon to assume their responsibilities with regard to protection of the Palestinians under occupation and prevention of the occurrence of such acts.

As we offer our heartfelt condolences to our steadfast brothers in the holy city of Hebron and to the families of the martyrs, we draw the attention of the international community to the fact that this criminal occurrence that has been added to the record of Israeli practices already filled with acts of terrorism and intimidation against innocent citizens is but an embodiment of the consequences of the occupation of the Palestinian territories and of depriving the Palestinian people of its rights to its homeland. This should prompt the international community to move to take up its responsibilities for halting such occurrences through practical action and for ensuring arrival at an honourable, just and lasting settlement that will put an end to the conflict, guarantee Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and accord the Palestinian people its legitimate national rights.